108. The need for abolishing the double fee for licenses for dealing in arms and ammunition.

Mr. Kora Kochu Korula (Member, Trading classes, Kottayam) said that, according to the rules under the Arms Regulation, V of 1084, a fee of Rs. 20 was levied for every license granted for the manufacture, conversion and sale of arms, ammunition or military stores. The fee was very light before the passing of the new Regulation. In addition to the above fee, the Town Improvement Committees were also insisting on licenses being taken out for trading in arms and ammunition and they charged a fee of Rs. 3 for a license. There was thus a double fee for the same purpose, and he requested that, in view of the high fee under the Arms Rules, the additional fee under the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation should be done away with.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

109. The needs of the Shencottah Town Improvement Committee.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) said that, before the constitution of a T. I. C. in Shencottah, the Government used to incur an annual expenditure of over Rs. 1,500 for the town of Shencotta and that, after the organisation of the Committee, the Government fixed the contribution to the T. I. C. at Rs. 500. He therefore asked for an increased grant to the Committee. The revenue brought in by additional taxation was about Rs. 4,000. Still, the condition of the town was unsatisfactory. The reason for that state of affairs was due to the circumstance that the Committee had no control over its staff. The President of the Committee had no consideration for the non-official members and he made appointments without even consulting the members. The powers of the President in the matter of the appointment of servants and the control over them should, the Member said, be restricted. The right should vest in the Committee and the President should not make any reports to the Government except on resolutions of the Committee.

Dewan.—I am afraid the executive powers must vest in one individual. Otherwise the system will not work properly.

The Member next said that the Committee had no habitation since the order of the Government to vacate the place occupied by them for the use of the local Munsiff. The Committee should be permitted to retain the building till they hired out a place for holding their office.

The most urgent need of the town was water for drinking and bathing purposes. The Perumalkulam was a filthy tank and was the nursery of all epidemic germs in the town. The evil should be remedied. He suggested that the question of disposal of the tank might be referred to the Committee.

The next representation of the Member was that the cost of the resurvey of the town should not be saddled on the Committee but should be borne by the Government. The survey accounts of the town were quite inaccurate for which the Committee was not responsible and a re-survey was very essential.

He also requested that the Committee should be supplied with a full copy of the Government Gazette.

In 1088, the town was divided into four wards. That division was neither approved nor disapproved by the Government. The rules recently passed relating to the election of non-official members stated that the town had not been divided into wards. The first ward election was however conducted recently and election was regularly made for each ward according to the old division, such election being duly recognised by the Government. The Member requested that the Government should recognise the old wards to make the existing Committee a legal body or the Government should order the division of the town into seven wards, one for each non-official member.

The Member also presented a memorandum containing his suggestions for the amendment of the T. I. C. Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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